

# Welcome Back!

# THE HILLTOP

Volume 63, Issue 7

Friday, January 26, 1990

Mars Hill, North Carolina

## IHC Helps Homeless

Phanie Pierce  
Staff Writer

On January 1, 1990, a group of MHC students set out for Cincinnati, Ohio to spend ten days in the inner city.

A June 1989 estimate by the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that on any given night, as many as 735,000 people in the U.S. are homeless.

Homeless people are a diverse group composed of people from every race, age, and health status. The composition of the homeless often varies among different communities. No longer are they confined just to the back alleys of inner cities, but their growing numbers and their changing composition have thrust them into public awareness of communities and neighborhoods that not long ago would not have known of their existence.

Dr. Thomas Plaut and eleven MHC students went to Cincinnati to work with the homeless and the poor. Their stay consisted of working in different community centers.

Each MHC student was assigned to certain community centers to work in, depending on his or her major. Their jobs varied from working in soup kitchens, working with the senior citizens and the mentally ill, teaching school, cooking, and most importantly, finding homes for the poverty stricken.

The students went to Cincinnati for

various reasons. Linda Plants, a senior, went "to see the world of the inner city." She saw elementary school children who have experienced what a thirty year-old here has.

Tim Plaut, also a senior, thought the trip would be a good chance to see the medical side of the inner city. He was most "impressed with the spirit of community and caring" that has helped him define his priorities about his chosen profession, working with the elderly.

For both Plaut and Plants, the trip was a time for spiritual growth: "I saw what real servanthood and Christianity was, by people giving of themselves," Plaut said.

For Staci Smith, also a senior, the trip made her realize the number of homeless people there are: "It's a chance to learn about these people, but also to make a difference in someone else's life."

Other members of the group were: Donna Burkett, Tonya Diston, Donna Payne, Angela Voss, John Watts, Steve Yost, Joan Yerby and Dean Honeycutt.

The trip only cost the team \$125 dollars each and a little extra cash in case needed. This trip is taken every year and those interested in going in 1991 should talk to a student who has gone or to Dr. Plaut.

## Bailey Mountain Cloggers Dance Their Way into Mexicans' Hearts

Jennifer Enrich  
Staff Writer

Do you know what it is like to be really good at something? Several Mars Hill students do.

It is impossible to be connected to MHC and not hear of the Bailey Mountain Cloggers. They are quite renowned as individuals as well as a group.

Recently, two of the team members, Captain Ronette Chapman and Brian Widener, were named to the All American Clogging Team. This admittance was granted to them following the annual American Clogging Team Hall of Fame Championships at Maggie Valley.

The clogging team was organized in 1974 by students themselves. The group was formed in order to perform in the Lunsford Festival. The Student Government Association and the Dean of Students were in support of the new group.

Up until 1980, the team remained student-supported. At that time, the Southern Appalachian Center assumed full sponsorship. The Southern Appalachian Center sponsors such other things as festivals, Appalachian drama and preservation of the mountain heritage.

The clogging team engages in several competitions and performs for a great number of occasions. They perform in the public schools, which helps encourage heritage appreciation and affirmation of Southern Appalachian Tradition, according to Richard Dillingham, sponsor of the cloggers and the director of the Southern Appalachian Center.

The cloggers serve as "ambassadors of good will" for MHC as they travel up and down the Eastern seaboard to perform. In the past, they have even carried their talents to England and Scotland but this January 1-9, thirteen of the team members travelled to Mexico.

They were not only representing their college in Mexico, but the United States as a whole. Many Mexicans, from bus drivers to important politicians, watched the cloggers for an impression of our country. They certainly danced their way into the Mexicans' hearts.

To finance the trip "south of the border," the cloggers held a dance, a haunted house, and the Southern Appalachian Mountains Clogging Championship. This was the first time the competition was held and the cloggers plan to continue sponsoring it annually. The remainder of the trip was paid by the students themselves.

The cloggers set up their trip through the International Cultural Exchange, an organization which helps sports teams visit foreign countries. They worked with the cloggers since it is a part of our physical education department here. Yula Moguel, a Mexican lady, arranged the trip and Yula's mother became their tour guide.

Dillingham said he felt the cloggers "learned more in that one experience than in a year of academics." Mexico was a virtual "second-world classroom" for the dance team. They saw, firsthand, a country other than their own. The cloggers visited the major cities of Mexico City, Acapulco and Guadalajara.

One of the things they learned about Mexico was the amount of poverty found in the rural areas. Some were also surprised to find so much American influence there, including fast food restaurants. The farther out of the large cities one goes, the less prevalent the American influence is.

Much adjustment had to be made by these MHC students. They had to adjust to the real Mexican food and the uncertainty of the scheduling. Although they had set plans, they often got sidetracked or off schedule.

The cloggers generally performed in capital cities, oftentimes in plazas in the middle of the city. On Mexico's Christmas Eve, January 5, they were dancing in Pachuca. The Mexicans celebrate this night commemorating the wise men's visit and have so named it, King's Night.

As soon as they finished the dance, an explosion occurred. At first, they did not know what to think, then they realized that it was a fireworks display. Later, they found out it was all in honor of them. All in all, the cloggers trip to Mexico was a real BLAST!

## Circle K in Action: Helping Others and Having Fun, Too!

Doug Searcy  
Guest Writer

Circle K is on the move again!! Last semester Circle K was involved in many service activities to benefit the Mars Hill College community, even during the holiday season.

Some of the activities included a canned food drive for Neighbors in Need, a highway clean-up on 19-23 and flower delivery to Madison Manor Nursing Home. These activities not only helped the campus and community, but also provided a great deal of gratification for those who participated.

The fun does not stop here!! During the upcoming months, Circle K is planning social as well as service events to involve other students in the organization.

On Feb. 1, Circle K will sponsor a pizza party for all those students willing to commit a little time and effort to make Mars Hill a better place. The next event is for the entire campus and will be held on Saturday, February 3—a dance after the basketball game from 9 until 1 in McConnell.

Both events present an excellent opportunity for fun and fellowship, so come and bring a friend.

If you would like to get involved and make a difference at Mars Hill, Circle K welcomes you to join us. We meet Monday at 5 p.m. in the Presidential Dining Room of the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there.